

in the way just given, and why? Because all the Brewsters have the same origin or source, for the ancestor of every one who has borne that name, without a single exception, first appeared in the Mayflower.

With the name that has given our friend so much trouble, the case is slightly different, and those who bear it are all right, no matter under what guise of orthography they appear, even should it be the one assumed in Boston, for, having sprung from different roots or sources, in this respect unlike the Brewsters, all the spellings are perfectly correct, each after its own kind in strict accordance with philological rules. I trust the faded memories of student days, in spite of his occasional unphilological surroundings, will assert themselves in renewed force, and permit our esteemed friend to perceive and appreciate the clearness of the above explanation.

But I cannot close, Mr. Editor, without expressing my very great satisfaction at beholding so eminent a member of the A. O. U. Committee on Nomenclature a-gunning for blunders. May he continue his meritorious search, and may it be attended with more success than in this his first effort, and should he again desire my assistance, I could point him to a field near to his hand where, without stint, he could gather trophies worthy of his prowess.

D. G. ELLIOT.

NOTES AND NEWS.

JOSEPH WOLF, the eminent bird artist and animal painter, died on the 20th of last April at the age of 79 years. He was born at Moërtz, near Coblenz, Rhenish Prussia, in June, 1820; he was the son of a farmer, but his powers of observation and talents as a draughtsman soon attracted attention, and eventually won for him the reputation of being "the best all-round animal painter that ever lived." Says the London 'Field': "The first work which brought the artist's name prominently before the scientific world was Rüppell's 'Systematische Uebersicht der Vögel Nordost Afrika's,' published in 1845, in which some fifty African birds are depicted in attitudes which contrast strongly with the stiff and unnatural positions in which previous artists were wont to portray their subjects. We look upon these illustrations as instituting the *renaissance* period in ornithological drawing. In 1850 appeared Temminck and Schlegel's quarto volumes on the fauna of Japan, which, with Wolf's coloured plates, still constitute one of the best illustrated works on natural history. Quickly following this came Schlegel's grand 'Traité de Fauconnerie,' in folio, with life-size portraits by Wolf of all the Hawks employed by falconers. . . . The late G. R. Gray's standard work, in

three volumes quarto, on the 'Genera of Birds,' a copy of which cannot now be obtained under £30, was partly illustrated by Wolf. Those who are familiar with the magnificent folio works of Gould on the 'Birds of Asia' and the 'Birds of Great Britain' will recognize in many of the life-like coloured plates the handiwork and talent of Joseph Wolf; while the same remark will apply to Elliot's grand volumes, also in folio, on the Pheasants, Birds of Paradise, the Birds of North America, [the Pittidæ], and the Felidæ or Cat Family." For half a century the 'Proceedings' and 'Transactions' of the London Zoölogical Society "teemed with the life-like productions of his pencil," while in 'The Ibis,' from its beginning in 1859 till now, "we have another example of the artist's wondrous skill in the delineation of birds." Numerous separate works of travel and natural history have been illustrated by this great artist; "nor should we omit to notice his 'Life and Habits of Wild Animals,' which appeared in 1874, illustrated from his designs, engraved by Whympers, with descriptive letter-press by D. G. Elliot."

THE scientific expedition to Alaska, planned and equipped by Mr. Edward Harriman of New York, left Seattle May 31, in the steamer 'George W. Elder,' which had been completely refitted to meet the requirements of the expedition. The trip will include a visit to Annette Island, a short trip up the Stickeen River, and stops at Juneau, and other points on the way to Cook Inlet and Kadiak Island, which regions will be the principal fields of exploration. The object of the expedition is a careful study of the flora, fauna, geology and glaciers of Alaska. The party comprises a large number of eminent specialists in botany, zoölogy and geology, who have joined the expedition as guests of Mr. Harriman. These include, among ornithologists, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Chief of the United States Biological Survey, who will have charge of the biological work; Dr. A. K. Fisher, of the U. S. Biological Survey; Robert Ridgway, of the U. S. National Museum; D. G. Elliot, of the Field Columbian Museum; Charles A. Keeler, Custodian of the Museum of the California Academy of Sciences; Dr. George Bird Grinnell, editor of 'Forest and Stream'; Mr. John Burroughs, and Mr. Louis Agassiz Fuertes. The opportunities thus afforded by the generosity of Mr. Harriman cannot fail to materially increase our knowledge of the natural history of Alaska.

MR. GEORGE K. CHERRIE has recently returned from his expedition to Venezuela, where he spent twenty-one months collecting for the Tring Museum. His field was the Valley of the Orinoco, from Ciudad Bolivar to the mouth of the Ventuari River, above the falls and beyond San Fernando de Atabapo. He devoted his time almost exclusively to birds, but collected some insects and small mammals. Many nests and sets of eggs were forwarded with the birds. He reports that collecting between Ciudad Bolivar and the first falls of the Orinoco was rather disappointing and monotonous; while individuals were abundant the species were sur-

prisingly few. Above the falls the fauna changed rapidly; the number of species increased, and with every move up the river new forms appeared. Flycatchers, Woodhewers, and Ant-thrushes were the dominant forms, while there was a striking scarcity of Hummingbirds. Mr. Cherrie's work was cut short by serious illness, which compelled his withdrawal from the country with his work only begun.

THE NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB was organized March 1, 1899, with eleven charter members, and Prof. Lawrence Bruner, Professor of Entomology and Ornithology, University of Nebraska, as President. The members are all active ornithologists; meetings are held every two weeks, at which the members report their observations. It is intended, through accession of members from other parts of the State, to make the Club eventually a State organization.

PART I of the 'Water Birds' of Mr. Charles B. Cory's 'Birds of Eastern North America' is in press and will soon be issued by the Field Columbian Museum. It is small quarto in size and profusely illustrated.

A COMPLETE 'List of the Birds of Rhode Island' is announced as in preparation, to be published by subscription in September, by Reginald Heber Howe, Jr., and Edward Sturtevant. The list is to be fully annotated, and illustrated by photographs, and will contain a bibliography of Rhode Island ornithology.

WE HAVE received a prospectus of what will apparently be a very important work, entitled 'Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds, including the Geographical Distribution of the Species and popular observations thereon,' by Archibald James Campbell of Melbourne. It will form a royal octavo volume of between 700 and 800 pages, with about 130 photographic reproductions of nests and nesting scenes, and 200 colored figures of eggs. Judging by the sample pages and illustrations accompanying the prospectus, the work will be unusually attractive and of standard value.

A FOUR-PAGE leaflet entitled 'Hints to Young Bird Students,' endorsed by eleven of the leading ornithologists of the United States, has been issued under the supervision of Mr. Witmer Stone. It points out that there is nothing to be gained by the collecting of large series of birds' eggs, "except the extermination of the birds." It counsels careful field work, and gives hints as to its prosecution. The large collections already available for study in museums, it is urged, "render it entirely unnecessary for every bird student to form a collection. Those who undertake any special line of study will soon learn what specimens are required and collect accordingly, instead of amassing a large number of specimens with no particular object in view." In the case of birds,

says the circular, "it is justifiable to shoot specimens which are new to you for purposes of identification, but you should make the best use of the bird *before* you kill it, so it will not be necessary to shoot more of the same kind in order to tell what they are." It is the aim of the circular to discourage the 'fad' of egg-collecting and its consequent waste of bird life, while still encouraging the study of birds.

A SOPHISM more or less current among advocates or abettors of indiscriminate bird destruction, either for millinery or other needless purposes, is perhaps too obviously disingenuous to require serious treatment, yet doubtless many thoughtless people are liable to mistake it for a sincere statement of fact, namely, that because millions of birds are reared annually for no other purpose than to have their necks wrung or their heads chopped off and their bodies used for food, or to be daily robbed of their eggs for man's use, therefore there is no reason why Egrets, Terns, Birds of Paradise, Tanagers, Warblers and other wild birds of fine plumage should not be killed without stint, or their nests robbed by the small boy and the commercial egg-collector. The whole tribe of barn-yard fowls is under man's protection, and reared for profit under artificial conditions, the supply being easily rendered equal to the demand, just as in the case of hay or grain or other farm products. Man's pecuniary interest is here involved in such a way that the extermination of a species is impossible. In the case of wild birds and beasts the case is wholly different. Here man interferes only as a destroyer, with the sad results we already too well know, whether we turn to the wild game animals and birds, or to the numerous victims of the milliner's greed. When free from man's interference nature maintains a fair equilibrium; the death rate, from normal causes, just about equalling, in the long run, the natural limit of reproduction. Hence when man interferes, and fashion claims certain species as her victims, a wholesale, senseless, indiscriminate slaughter supervenes, over and above the death rate nature is prepared to meet; and the small boy and the 'egg-hog' add their powerful aid, in the diminution of our insectivorous song birds, to the efforts of the 'plume hunter' in sweeping from the face of the earth some of the most graceful and beautiful forms of bird life, and which it is beyond man's power to replace.

Erratum.—IN printing Dr. Thomas S. Roberts's article 'The Prothonotary or Golden Swamp Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) a Common Summer Resident in Southeastern Minnesota,' appearing in this number of 'The Auk' (pp. 236-246) the name of the author was accidentally omitted, although duly given in the page-headings.